

Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 SS-20 ISO-00 EB-11 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10

NSAE-00 PA-04 RSC-01 USIA-15 PRS-01 SPC-03 SAJ-01

NEA-10 AID-20 CEA-02 COME-00 FRB-02 CIEP-02 STR-08

TRSE-00 LAB-06 SIL-01 OMB-01 /144 R

66623

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EUR:RPM:EJSTREATOR, JR.

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NOFORN

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EC

SUBJECT: APPRAISAL OF EC SUMMIT AND PRESS GUIDANCE

SUMMARY: OUR PRELIMINARY REACTION TO DECEMBER 14-15 EC SUMMIT IN COPENHAGEN IS THAT WHILE IT WAS DISAPPOINTING FROM OUR POINT OF VIEW, IT DID FURTHER, REAFFIRM AND REINFORCE EC-NINE DRIVE TOWARDS UNITY BUT PAPERED OVER MANY PROBLEMS BOTHERING MEMBERS. WE HAVE NOT YET SEEN REACTIONS FROM THE MAJOR CAPITALS BUT BASED ON THE SUMMIT STATEMENT AND THE PRESS REPORTS WE MAKE THE FOLLOWING OBSERVATIONS.

1. SUMMIT AND US -- DESPITE PRELIMINARY INDICATIONS THAT US-EC RELATIONS WOULD CONSTITUTE IMPORTANT SUMMIT TOPIC,

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PRESS STATEMENT AND IDENTITY PAPER HAD NOTHING NEW TO SAY

ON THIS SUBJECT. THE STATEMENT CONTAINED ONLY ONE REFERENCE TO US, VIZ., THAT EUROPEAN UNITY PER SE WILL BENEFIT THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN EUROPE AND THE US. THERE WAS NO APPRECIATION IN THE DOCUMENT THAT EFFORTS MUST BE MADE TO ENHANCE THIS RELATIONSHIP. THE EC NINE IDENTITY PAPER APPROVED AND ISSUED AT THE SUMMIT, ALTHOUGH DRAFTED EARLIER AS RESULT OF THE COMPROMISE TO GET FRENCH AGREEMENT TO PROCEED WITH US-EC DECLARATION, DOES NOT GO BEYOND FRENCH FORMULATIONS ON RELATIONS WITH US IN THE 1972 EC SUMMIT COMMUNIQUE AND MAY PROVIDE BASIS FOR FRENCH TO BLOCK MORE SATISFACTORY FORMULATIONS

IN THE US-EC DECLARATION. FOR EXAMPLE, IT REPEATS THE FORMULA ON "MAINTAINING A CONSTRUCTIVE DIALOGUE" WITH THE US, A CODE WORD FOR NO NEW INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS. FURTHERMORE, THE IDENTITY PAPER PUTS RELATIONS WITH THE US FOURTH ON LIST, PRECEDED BY STATEMENTS ON THE COMMUNITY'S RELATIONS WITH OTHER WESTERN EUROPEAN COUNTRIES, THE ASSOCIATES, AND OTHER LDCS, AND MEDITERRANEAN AND AFRICAN COUNTRIES. A NEW FORMULA ALSO WAS USED THAT THE COMMUNITY WOULD "PURSUE A CONSTRUCTIVE DIALOGUE" WITH OTHER INDUSTRIALIZED COUNTRIES, E.G., CANADA AND JAPAN, THE IMPLICATION BEING THAT THE EC WILL ACTIVELY SEEK TO FORMALIZE ITS BILATERAL RELATIONSHIP WITH THOSE COUNTRIES. FINALLY, THE SUMMIT FAILED TO PRODUCE ANY RESPONSE TO SECRETARY'S CALL FOR AN ENERGY ACTION GROUP, AS DISCUSSED IN A SUBSEQUENT PARAGRAPH THIS MESSAGE.

2. THE SUMMIT AND THE MIDDLE EAST -- THE APPEARANCE OF THE FOUR ARAB FOREIGN MINISTERS IN COPENHAGEN WITHOUT A DOUBT DIVERTED SUMMIT FROM OTHER IMPORTANT WORK AND CAME CLOSE TO UPSTAGING THE ENTIRE SUMMIT. MUCH TIME WAS SPENT ON HOW TO DEAL WITH THE ARAB DELEGATION AND THE FORMULA USED MANAGED TO MAINTAIN SOME DISTANCE. FURTHERMORE, THE DANISH SPOKESMAN FOR THE SUMMIT WHO RECEIVED THE ARABS WARNED THEM POLITELY THAT THE CONTINUED SQUEEZE ON EUROPEAN OIL SUPPLY WAS PRODUCING AN ADVERSE EFFECT ON PUBLIC OPINION WHICH COULD WORK AGAINST THE ARABS' CAUSE. THE PRESS STATEMENT REAFFIRMED THE EC

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NINE STATEMENT OF NOVEMBER 6 AND STATED THAT THE NINE WERE "READY" TO PLAY A ROLE IN A MIDDLE EAST SETTLEMENT AND IN GUARANTEEING SUCH A SETTLEMENT.

3. THE SUMMIT AND ENERGY -- THERE WAS NO RESPONSE TO THE SECRETARY'S PROPOSAL FOR AN ENERGY ACTION GROUP. IN FACT, THE STATEMENT THAT IT WOULD BE "USEFUL TO STUDY" IN THE OECD WAYS OF DEALING WITH COMMON

SHORT- AND LONG-TERM ENERGY PROBLEMS COULD BE READ AS A REJECTION OF ANY REAL JOINT ACTION. SOME COMMUNITY LEADERS, HOWEVER, HAVE ALREADY STRESSED IN POST-SUMMIT STATEMENTS THAT THE PRESS STATEMENT SHOULD NOT BE READ AS REJECTING THE SECRETARY'S PROPOSAL. WE WILL NEED TO GET SOME MORE AUTHORITATIVE STATEMENTS FROM CAPITALS BEFORE DRAWING ANY CONCLUSIONS. THE SUMMIT, HOWEVER, CREATED THE ILLUSION OF MOVEMENT TOWARDS A COMMON RESPONSE TO ENERGY PROBLEMS BY IMPOSING A SERIES OF EARLY DEADLINES FOR THE COMMISSION TO PRESENT PROPOSALS FOR COUNCIL ACTION "TO ENSURE THE ORDERLY FUNCTIONING OF THE COMMON MARKET FOR ENERGY." THE COUNCIL WAS SPECIFICALLY ASKED TO ASSURE THAT MEMBER STATES INTRODUCE

"ON A CONCERTED AND EQUITABLE BASIS" MEASURE FOR ENERGY CONSERVATION, A GERMAN AND DUTCH PROPOSAL. JOBERT WAS REPORTED TO HAVE TOLD THE PRESS THAT THIS DID NOT MEAN THAT THE WEEKEND MOTOR TRIPS OF THE FRENCH WOULD BE CURTAILED. THE UK AND FRANCE SUCCESSFULLY RESISTED ANY REAL MOVEMENT TOWARD A COMMON PUBLIC POSTURE IN THE COMMUNITY ON OIL SHARING BETWEEN THE HAVE AND HAVE-NOT COUNTRIES. NONETHELESS AN OPEN SPLIT AMONG THE NINE WAS AVERTED, AND THE TIMETABLE MAY YET PRODUCE SOME FORWARD MOTION ON AN EC ENERGY POLICY, THOUGH WE HAVE NO INDICATION OF ANY IMPORTANT CHANGE IN POSITION BY LONDON AND PARIS. THE FRENCH POINT ON EC NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE PRODUCERS ON COMPREHENSIVE ECONOMIC COOPERATION WAS INCLUDED AS WAS A REFERENCE TO A EUROPEAN NUCLEAR ENRICHMENT CAPACITY.

4. THE SUMMIT AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT -- THE SUMMIT UNDERLINED AGAIN THE PROGRESSIVE SHIFT IN EMPHASIS FROM THE ECONOMIC TO THE POLITICAL AREA AND FROM THE COMMUNITY
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PRESS STATEMENT CALLED F
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ENERGY, PETROLEUM PRODUCTION, CONSERVATION, SUMMIT MEETINGS, INTERGOVERNMENTAL COOPERATION, PEACE TALKS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 20 DEC 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: garlanwa
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973STATE247637
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: EUR:REP:AKATZ/LDUTTON/EUR:RPM:JSHINN
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19731213/aaaaajce.tel
Line Count: 151
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ORIGIN EUR
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: garlanwa
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags: ANOMALY
Review Date: 15 NOV 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <15-Nov-2001 by smithrj>; APPROVED <11 MAR 2002 by garlanwa>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: APPRAISAL OF EC SUMMIT AND PRESS GUIDANCE SUMMARY: OUR PRELIMINARY REACTION TO DECEMBER 14-15
TAGS: ENRG, PFOR, US, XF, EC
To: EUR POSTS TOKYO
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005